

September 29, 2008

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Comm. Maynard; Chief Beloit; Chief Waters; Supt. Givens; Tom Hogan, Dick Honebrink, and Rich DeMarco – Johnson Controls, Inc.; Ron Warrum; Judy Heberer, Marcy Miller – Mount Vernon Garden Club; Rick Mileham; Jerry Walden; Ann Blackburn; Sis Claxton; Bob Boerner; Judy Whitten; Mindy Bourne – Posey County Area Plan Commission; Judy Winiger and Kay Cox – Riverbend Coalition; Larry Williams; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; and Amy Moore – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Curtis.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Fuelling moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously

*****CLAIMS*****

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Chairman Curtis stated he believes Supt. Gray has a report, to then be followed by Mr. Hogan of Johnson Controls.

Supt. Gray stated he was told after the last meeting to secure quotes on the salt barn and packer barn, as they did not receive any bids for those items. He then stated he has a quote on the salt barn from Midwest Fast Structures out of Vincennes, for a 44' x 70' wood structure, with a domed truss roof (life expectancy of 20-25 years) for \$36,960.00. Chairman Curtis stated the wood on the sides of the building should help keep it from being damaged by the salt.

Supt. Gray agreed and added that is also a good price for the building. He continued by stating he has a quote from Hobgood on the packer barn for a 36' x 80' x 16' metal structure with a concrete floor. He added the frame will be wood and the doors insulated, at a cost of \$38,420.00.

Chairman Curtis moved the Board accept both quotes as presented for the salt barn and packer barn.

Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Board voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hogan approached the podium and stated he is honored to be present this evening and he does bring good news. He stated he would like everyone to go to the water department and take a look at the work being done there, it is truly of work of art down there. He added it is rare to see a facility come out looking like that, which is a testament to everyone involved from the Mayor and Board members, to the contractors themselves. He added there are truly crafters here in Mt. Vernon, it is an incredible structure that looks like it could last forever. He added he is very proud of it and he will be sending pictures to JCI's corporate offices, again he is very proud of the work being done there. He then turned the mic over to Mr. DeMarco. Mr. DeMarco reported they are moving forward on the filter building – the walls and floors are up, and they are working on the ceiling as well as the waterproofing. He stated at this point, the filters are ready to be installed; the piping is on its way as well for the lamella building. He stated all structures are in place for the filter building and they expect to be under roof by mid November. He stated as for the temporary pump station, there are no issues with that and the tanks and systems are being checked out. He added Supt. Gray is filling the lamella tanks and they are ahead of their October 15 deadline. He stated they should be all operational by the end of this week. He then stated excavation and foundation work is also progressing on the backwash supply house; excavation will begin at the Keck site next week. He concluded by stating they have multiple projects going on at once, but they are meeting schedule and are actually ahead of schedule. He then asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated they have the Financial Report before them and any questions could be directed to Bookkeeper Bennett.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated on the Legal portion of the Agenda is possible action on the fence bid opened at their previous meeting.

Supt. Gray replied that bid is not ready for action at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is a possible Resolution for the purchase of real property.

Board member Curtis stated they are moving forward with this, but it is not ready yet, hopefully they will be ready to move on this at the next meeting.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker stated under Old Business, he questioned the status of Mr. Stratton who had appeared at their previous meeting about a water tap situation ?

Supt. Gray replied that situation has been rectified.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he recommends the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was then adjourned.

John Tucker
Mayor

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Richard Demarco – Johnson Controls, Inc.; Jerry Walden; Debbie Bennett Stearsman – Economic Development Coalition; Andy Hoehn; Judy and Dave Whitten; Larry Williams; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; Amy Moore – Mount Vernon Democrat; and arriving during the meeting, Asst. Fire Chief Riggs; Lt. Angel; Bob Boerner; and Chief Beloit.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilman Fuelling moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Askren stated she has no report.

Comm. Maynard was not present.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.

Chief Beloit was not present.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

Chief Waters was not present.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated the first item on the Legal portion of the Agenda is the 1st reading of the proposed Ordinance Establishing Appropriations and Tax Rates for the Year Ending December 31, 2009.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe explained this is “the budget”. She stated it is a compilation of the budgets Council reviewed in June, with the amounts to be raised to fund those budgets, and the tax rate. She added the public hearing will be September 15 and final passage on the 29th of September.

Councilman Curtis moved the ordinance pass on first reading. Seconded by Councilman Askren.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.
Mayor Tucker stated the ordinance passed first reading unanimously.
Bob Boerner arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item for consideration is the proposed Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages for Appointed Officers and Employees for the City of Mount Vernon for the Year Ending December 31, 2009.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated this is the salary ordinance for all employees, with the exception of the Elected Officials. She added it also lists longevity, holidays for 2009, etc., and must also be passed by September 29. Councilwoman Askren moved the ordinance pass on first reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn. Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the ordinance passed first reading unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is a Resolution to Transfer in the Park & Recreation, MVHF, and CCDF Funds.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated even after the receipt of the tax anticipations warrants, some funds did not receive enough to make their bills. One of these transfers will enable them to make the fire truck payment of \$67,000 which is due in September. She added there are also over \$150,000 in paving bills that are NOT included in this transfer that will have to be paid.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if this is just another band aid and will there possibly be another transfer at even the next meeting ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied that is a very real possibility. She added she wished she could tell them with some certainty when they could expect a tax settlement, but right now, it is anyone's guess.

Councilman Curtis agreed and added even the County has no idea when a settlement may happen.

Councilwoman Askren moved the Resolution be passed. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any further discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-18.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is a Resolution Regarding the Delta Queen.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated, if she is reading this correctly, the Resolution if passed, will allow the Delta Queen to stay on the Ohio River, as it is built from non flame retardant materials. She added she also understand that other communities are passing similar Resolutions, Evansville among them.

Attorney Higgins agreed and added it also recognizes the Delta Queen as being an historic vessel and asks that she remain in commission.

Councilwoman Hoehn moved the Resolution be approved. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.
Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.
Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-19.

Attorney Higgins stated she has prepared the Resolution for signature that they had discussed at a previous meeting again, dealing with the purchase of property for the Street Department. She added she will have the Water Rate Ordinance ready at the next meeting. She then stated she has also given Council, for their review, an Ordinance on internet policies and procedures, proper usage regarding electronic media, etc. She added they may have a first reading at the next meeting, but as they will see, the ordinance is very specific in creating rules and policies and that these devices should be used primarily for municipal uses. She added if adopted, all current and new employees will be given a copy to read and sign off on.

Lt. Angel and Asst. Fire Chief Riggs arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated in the Audience is Debbie Bennett Stearsman with the Economic Development Coalition.

Ms. Stearsman approached and stated she has met with Mayor Tucker concerning the status of the city's grants, projects, etc., and will now update the Council. She then distributed handouts to the Council regarding specific grant procedures, along with a proposed timeline on a Storm Water grant application. She added Mount Vernon received an earmark from Congressman Ellsworth, which was signed off on last week, INDOT TEA funds, and it has been turned in. She then stated the city's comprehensive plan is in order and there are monies available for storm water planning, as Mayor Tucker indicated he is interested in. She then referred the Council to Page 6 of their first handout, stated the maximum grant award for most planning grant applications is \$50,000; though for environment infrastructure projects, the limits are \$30,000 for a study on a single utility; \$40,000 for a study on two utilities; and \$50,000 for a study on water, wastewater, and storm water utilities. She further reminded Council that in order to participate in the Planning Grant program, communities must commit at least ten percent (10%) of the total project cost in matching funds toward the grant.

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Councilman Curtis questioned the city signing a letter of intent on a storm water grant, would that obligate the city ?

Ms. Stearsman replied no, there would be no obligation, as the Council can read on Page 9 of their handout. Councilman Curtis stated with grants, lots of times the city can get to a certain point within the process where they are committed. He added he has no objections to starting this process, but right now the city has water projects going, sewer projects going, and no income coming in.

Mayor Tucker stated there are lines in the Storm Sewer budget, and normally, there is money there for this type of work.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked Mayor Tucker on a scale of 1-10, how important the storm sewer work is ?

Mayor Tucker replied in certain areas, some in District 3, it is pretty important.

Ms. Stearsman stated the city would not need to come up with any match dollars until 2009, most likely in February and then again in December.

Councilman Fuelling stated he wishes he had the foresight to see what lies ahead financially – after the year it takes to complete the study,

Ms. Stearsman stated though she shouldn't say this, the city does not have to do anything further once the study is completed.

Councilman Curtis agreed and added they do not have to move forward, but the study itself would be complete in a year.

Chief Beloit arrived at the meeting.

Lt. Angel left the meeting.

Ms. Stearsman stated they need to keep in mind the total cost to the city would be 10% of the cost of the total project.

Councilman Fuelling stated after the study is complete, what is the timeframe for the effective plan ?

Councilman Curtis replied the plan would still be effective regardless, and the topography would not change.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she would like Comm. Maynard to be present before they proceed, he is the department head over this.

Councilman Fuelling agreed that would be a good idea.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated this is really his baby, he oversees this work, though she would like to thank Ms. Stearsman for her work, she appreciates the information and the overview. She added she now has an idea of what needs to be done, but she would still like to table any action on this until she talks with Comm. Maynard.

Ms. Stearsman stated the city can have two open grants at a time, they have one already, so they do have a slot available.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if there would be any harm in waiting until the next meeting to make a decision ?

Ms. Stearsman replied no, they have some time to wait if they so choose.

Councilwoman Hoehn again stated she would like to table any action until Comm. Maynard could be contacted.

Mayor Tucker stated he has talked with Comm. Maynard and he is all for it, but it is ultimately up the Council what they do.

Councilwoman Askren stated she feels they could go ahead and proceed with the storm water grant letter of intent, since they could always pull out at a later date.

Ms. Stearsman replied that is correct, they could even pull out after the grant is funded.

Councilwoman Askren moved they proceed with the grant on the storm water work, pulling out at a later date if need be. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilman Fuelling stated he and Comm. Maynard discussed the dirt pile situation at the riverfront and the jumps have now been smoothed out and they do have a plan to seed, straw, and fertilize.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Councilwoman Hoehn stated in reference to the trees along the riverfront and the downtown that Comm.

Maynard spoke about having to remove, she has discussed that with Comm. Maynard and they do have some additional information from Larry Kaplan, excellent information. Mr. Kaplan indicated the trees only have a life expectancy of three to eight years, and they all need to be replaced, due to the concrete they are planted in and around, the roots are being covered. She offered to set up a committee, though she understands some work has already been done on this by Judy Winiger, Kay Cox, and Alice Morris. She added Mrs. Winiger is supposed to sit down with her and go over a proposal they had received from Comb's Landscaping, though she has already been told it will NOT be cheap. She added the cost to replace will be around \$300 per tree.

Councilman Fuelling asked if Mr. Kaplan recommended any specific kind of tree to replace the old trees with ?

Councilwoman Hoehn replied yes, unfortunately it was a very long list. She added she was also given the name of Evansville's Arborist, who indicated it may not be in the best interest of the city to put the trees back. She added there is a lot of research yet to do and then there is always the question of funding – they may need to get public donations. She added there is no question the trees are dead and they need to be removed. She stated she will pass along any information she receives to the Council. Council consented to permit Councilwoman Hoehn to continue gathering information.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1st District Councilwoman Askren stated she has no report.

2nd District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3rd District Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no report

4th District Councilman Curtis stated he has no report.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she would like to remind everyone of the First Annual Mount Vernon River Days, September 12-13, 2008, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the 12th, continuing until 10:00 or 11:00 p.m., then starting back up again at 7:30 a.m. on the 13th. She added there will be numerous food booths, a car show, kids events, demonstrations, etc. it should be a great event.

Mayor Tucker stated he would like to remind everyone of the meeting changes for September, instead of the 2nd and 4th Mondays, they will be held on the 3rd and 5th Mondays, the 15th and the 29th. He then stated if there is no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer